

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 809

By Yokley

A RESOLUTION congratulating Dr. Nathan Ford on receiving the
Cocke County Education Foundation's Celebrate
Our Successes Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to recognize those outstanding citizens who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Nathan Ford is one such estimable individual, who has distinguished himself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity during his illustrious career in optometry; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ford was recently awarded the Cocke County Education Foundation's prestigious Celebrate Our Successes Award, an honor recognizing his exceptional successes as a graduate of the Cocke County school system; and

WHEREAS, a Del Rio native and the son of the late John and Anna Davis Ford, Nathan Ford began his own educational career in the one-room Timber Ridge School; he transferred the next year to Harmony Grove School; and

WHEREAS, though dedicated to his education, Dr. Ford nobly missed his 1945 senior Class Night ceremony to be sworn into the United States Navy; and

WHEREAS, following his service in the Navy, Dr. Ford graduated from the Southern College of Optometry in Memphis and returned to Cocke County to become Newport's first full-time optometrist; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ford followed in his family's political tradition in 1952, when he ran for and was elected to the Cocke County Board of Education at the age of twenty-seven; during his

four years on the Board, much progress was made, including the consolidation of many of the system's one- and two-room schools; and

WHEREAS, continuing his successful political efforts, Dr. Ford also served four terms in the General Assembly as a member of the Representatives; during this time, he testified before the Education Committee in a successful plea to leave Newport Grammar School as a one-school system and saw great strides in Tennessee's vocational education programs, as well as the adoption of the Career Ladder program; and

WHEREAS, his contributions to Cocke County are not limited to the medical and educational fields: Dr. Ford has served as Cocke County Economic Development Commission Chairman, Chamber of Commerce Director, and a bank director; he is also a sixty-year member of Del Rio Masonic Lodge and the Newport Lions Club and once served as Cocke County Baptist Hospital Board Chair; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades, Dr. Ford was named Tennessee's Optometrist of the Year in 1980; and

WHEREAS, his professional achievements aside, Nathan Ford is most grateful for the love and companionship of his wife of fifty-six years, Mary Barger Ford; this exemplary couple are longtime members of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and have three children, Beth, Mark, and John, as well as three grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ford truly serves as an inspiration to his colleagues, and his friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know him; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ford epitomizes the dedicated Tennessean who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Dr. Nathan Ford on receiving the Cocke County Education Foundation's Celebrate Our Successes Award, commend his exceptional service to education in Cocke County, salute his professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.